

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration and allowance of the subject application are respectfully requested in view of the following remarks.

Summary of the Office Action

Claims 1, 3, 10 and 13 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Hiramatsu et al. (U.S. Patent No. 4,974,068) and Lee (U.S. Patent No. 6,233,065).

Claims 5 and 6 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Hiramatsu et al. and Lee in view of Matsumoto et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,514,934).

Claim 7 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Hiramatsu et al. and Lee in view of Taguchi et al. (Japanese Patent No. 07-272672).

Claims 8, 11 and 12 stand objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form.

Claims 4, 9, 14 and 16-18 are allowed.

Summary of the Response to the Office Action

Applicants cancel claims 1, 5 and 7 without prejudice or disclaimer, amend claims 3, 6, 8 and 10-13, and add new claim 19 by this amendment. Accordingly, claims 3, 4, 6, 8-14, 16-19 are currently pending.

The Disposition of the Claims

Applicants appreciate the Examiner's allowance of claim 4, 9, 14 and 16-18 and the Examiner's indication of claims 8, 11 and 12 being allowable. While Applicants agree that these claims are allowable and patentably distinguish over the prior art, Applicants respectfully do not acquiesce that patentability resides only in the features expressed at paragraph 9 of the Office Action, nor that each and every feature recited in the claims is required for patentability.

To expedite the prosecution of the present application, Applicants cancel claims 1, 5, and 7 without prejudice or disclaimer, amend claims 8, 11 and 12 to be in independent form, amend claim 3 to depend from claim 11, amend claim 6 to depend from claim 4, amend claim 10 to depend from claim 9, and add new claim 19 to depend from claim 12. Applicants respectfully submit that claims 8, 11 and 12 are in condition for allowance, and claims 3, 6, 10 and 19 also are in condition for allowance at least because of their dependence upon the allowed claims.

In addition, claim 13 has been amended to recite the features of “switching an emission mode of a single light source capable of irradiating a visible light and an invisible light in accordance with a reading mode selected from a visible image reading mode and an invisible image reading mode by adjusting a current applied to the light source.” Applicants respectfully submit that none of the cited references, whether taken separately or in combination, teaches or suggests the claimed combination as set forth in claim 13, as newly-amended.

Conclusion


In view of the foregoing, withdrawal of the rejections and allowance of the pending claims are earnestly solicited. Should there remain any questions or comments regarding this response or the application in general, the Examiner is urged to contact the undersigned at the number listed below.

If there are any other fees due in connection with the filing of this response, please charge the fees to our Deposit Account No. 50-0310.

If a fee is required for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136 not accounted for above, such extension is requested and the fee should also be charged to our Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

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